2008-04592/

Canadian Heritage Patrimoine canadien

Canada

News Release ~ Communiqué

Tribute to Mary Travers, known as "La Bolduc"

NEWPORT, Que., June 24, 1994 Mr. Patrick Gagnon, M.P. for Bonaventure-Iles-de la Madeleine, on behalf of the Honourable Michel Dupuy, Minister of Canadian Heritage, unveiled today a Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada plaque commemorating the memory of Mary Travers, known as "La Bolduc."

This ceremony coincides with the inauguration of the Mary Travers Park in Newport, in Gaspésie, to mark the centenary of French Canada's first author-composer-interpreter.

In 1907, Mary Travers left her native Gaspésie to settle in Montréal where she worked as a domestic and later as a dressmaker. She married Édouard Bolduc on August 17, 1914. In 1928, she agreed to sing in the "Soirées du Bon Vieux Temps" to support her family. That enabled her to record her first song on April 12, 1929. Only eight months later she became popular with the titles: "La Cuisinière" and "Johnny Mafarleau." In 1937, after being in a serious car accident, her doctors discovered she had cancer. Hospitalized in December 1940, she died on February 20, 1941, at the age of 46.

Mary Travers considerably influenced Quebec's traditional culture. From 1929 to 1939, she wrote and recorded close to 100 songs. Her new way of looking at current events, at the social situation and at relations between men and women, coupled with her special capacity to sing scat, propelled her to the rank of stars. She toured frequently in Quebec, New Brunswick and the northern New England states.

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada advises the Minister of Canadian Heritage on the commemoration of people, events or historic places that are of national importance to Canada's history.

Information:

Michel de Courval
Canadian Heritage
Parks Canada
1-800-463-6769
(418) 648-7097